

# **NORTH DAKOTA PETROLEUM TANK RELEASE COMPENSATION FUND**

## **INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. FUND CHARACTERISTICS AND CONSTRAINTS.**

The Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund (the Fund) was established in 1989 in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirement that all underground storage tank owners have proof of financial responsibility. Operation of the Fund is in accordance with the 1991 Session Laws, Chapter 299. The Fund's "sunset clause" date of June 30, 2011 has been extended and the time horizon for this Fund is uncertain at this time.

Funding is provided by annual premiums collected for aboveground and underground petroleum storage tanks. Registration of tanks with the Fund is mandatory, although certain types of tanks are excluded. Premiums are estimated to total \$295,000 annually during the current biennium.

A statutory minimum balance of \$6.0 million must be maintained in the Fund. Also, a minimum balance of \$2.0 million is required by EPA. In the event reserves drop below this minimum, EPA would evaluate the Fund's ability to pay claims and would in all likelihood disapprove the Fund as a financial responsibility mechanism for North Dakota petroleum tank owners.

If a petroleum release occurs or petroleum contamination is discovered, an eligible tank owner is reimbursed 90 % of necessary and reasonable costs between \$5,000 and \$155,000 for cleanup of contamination or third-party liability. The Fund reimburses 100% of costs between \$155,000 and \$1,000,000. Claims have averaged \$596,000 annually over the last three fiscal years.

Operating expenses are paid from the Fund as incurred. For planning purposes over the 2005-2007 biennium, these appropriations were assumed to be \$60,000 annually.

The Fund's asset allocation will need to be reviewed at the end of the 2007-2009 biennium for appropriateness.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCRETION OF THE STATE INVESTMENT BOARD (SIB).**

The Fund is charged by law under Chapter 285 of the 1993 Session Laws with the responsibility of establishing policies on investment goals and asset allocation of the Fund. The SIB is charged with implementing these policies and asset allocation and investing the assets of the Fund in a manner consistent with the prudent investor rule as provided in NDCC 21-10-07.

At the discretion of the SIB, the Fund's assets may be pooled with other funds. In pooling funds, the SIB may establish appropriate asset class pools designed to provide specific quality and diversification guidelines, restrictions, and performance objectives consistent with the goals of the funds participating in the pools.

The SIB may delegate investment responsibility to professional money managers. When a money manager has been retained, the SIB's role in determining investment strategy and security selection is supervisory, not advisory.

The SIB is responsible for establishing criteria and procedures and making decisions with respect to hiring, maintaining, and terminating money managers. This responsibility includes selecting performance measurement services, consultants, and report formats and determining the frequency of meetings with managers.

The SIB will implement changes to this policy as promptly as is prudent.

### **3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.**

The investment objectives of the Fund reflect the need to augment premium income to provide for claim payments and stability of insurance reserves. Operating considerations shape the Fund's policies and priorities as follows:

Objective #1: Investment income is needed as a funding source. This will be achieved through a diversified portfolio of high quality fixed income and equity assets.

Objective #2: Growth of capital is needed to provide an inflationary hedge and add to the growth of surplus. Capital growth will be sought through investment in equities and/or equity substitutes.

Objective #3: Sufficient liquidity is to be maintained to meet known or anticipated financial obligations and preserve the value of the surplus. Cash equivalent investments will be used to achieve this objective.

Objective #4: The risk of violating the EPA mandated minimum balance requirement of \$2,000,000 is to be minimized. This will be achieved by an asset allocation consistent with this objective.

### **4. STANDARDS OF INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE.**

The Fund's investment objectives and liquidity constraints give rise to an asset allocation that is considered the most likely to achieve the results desired. For evaluation purposes, the following performance targets will apply:

- a. The Fund should produce a rate of return that meets or exceeds the portfolio policy index which is comprised of policy weights of appropriate asset class benchmarks as set by the SIB.
- b. The annual standard deviation of total returns for the Fund should not exceed that of the policy portfolio.
- c. Over 10 year and longer time periods the Fund should match or exceed the expected 6.42% rate of return based on Callan Associates' 2007 market projections. Expected risk for the period, measured by standard deviation, is 6.87%.

## 5. POLICY GUIDELINES.

The asset allocation of the state Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund is established by the Insurance Department, with input from the SIB. Asset allocation is based upon the appraisal of projected liquidity and income requirements, and estimates of the investment returns likely to be achieved by the various asset classes over the next five years.

In recognition of these factors, the following allocation is deemed appropriate for the fund:

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Large Cap Domestic Equity | 18.75 % |
| Small Cap Domestic Equity | 6.25 %  |
| International Equity      | 10.00 % |
| Fixed Income              | 50.00 % |
| Cash Equivalents          | 15.00 % |

Rebalancing of the Fund to this target will be done in accordance with the SIB's rebalancing policy.

While the SIB is responsible for establishing specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives for the investment vehicles in which the Fund's assets will be invested, it is understood that:

- a. Futures and options may be used to hedge or replicate underlying index exposure, but not for speculation.
- b. Derivative use will be monitored to ensure that undue risks are not taken by the money managers.
- c. All assets will be held in custody by the State Investment Board's master custodian or such other custodians as are acceptable to the State Investment Board.
- d. No funds shall be borrowed.
- e. No unhedged short sales or speculative margin purchases shall be made.
- f. Social investing is prohibited unless it meets the Exclusive Benefit Rule and it can be substantiated that the investment must provide an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.

For the purpose of this document, Social Investing is defined as *"The investment or commitment of public pension fund money for the purpose of obtaining an effect other than a maximized return to the intended beneficiaries."*

- g. Economically targeted investing is prohibited unless the investment meets the Exclusive Benefit Rule.

For the purpose of this document economically targeted investment is defined as an investment designed to produce a competitive rate of return commensurate with risk involved, as well as to create collateral economic benefits for a targeted geographic area, group of people, or sector of the economy.

Also, for the purpose of this document, the Exclusive Benefit Rule is met if the following four conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The cost does not exceed the fair market value at the time of investment.
- (2) The investment provides the Fund with an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.
- (3) Sufficient liquidity is maintained in the Fund to permit distributions in accordance with the terms of the plan.
- (4) The safeguards and diversity that a prudent investor would adhere to are present.

Where investment characteristics, including yield, risk, and liquidity are equivalent, the Fund's policy favors investments which will have a positive impact on the economy of North Dakota.


## 6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW.

Investment management of the Fund will be evaluated against the Fund's investment objectives and investment performance standards. Evaluation will be conducted quarterly by the SIB through its review of funds participating in the Insurance Trust.

Money managers hired by the SIB will be evaluated by the Board quarterly. In-state meetings will be held with the money managers at least annually.

Approved by:

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT



Jim Poolman  
Commissioner of Insurance

Date:

STATE INVESTMENT BOARD



Steve Cochrane  
Executive Director/CIO, RIO

Date: 6-18-07